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Unhappy CIAers feel new boss is too aloof

By KEYES BEECH

WASHINGTON — CIA veterans say they don't understand their new boss, Adm. Stansfield Turner, and he doesn't understand them.

Morale, they say, is at a low, and only a 20 per cent pay increase in February stopped mass resignations.

"If you have kids in college and don't want to sell real estate for a living, you can put up with almost anything — even Turner," one CIA veteran said.

"Besides," he continued, "your pension is determined by your highest pay average over a three-year three-year period, so most of us will hang on until 1980.

"Those who can't take it will quit."

LIKE A BATTLESHIP

Career CIA men's complaints about Turner are perhaps best summed up in the words of one of them: "He's trying to run the agency like a battleship."

Specifically, they say, he is remote to the point of being inaccessible and has met only a handful of the 43 division or section chiefs who make up the backbone of the agency.

They also say he deliberately keeps them off-balance with a flood of paperwork demanding instant answers and "makes no attempt to understand our culture."

The admiral's aides — one of the CIA gripes is that he was surrounded himself with



STANSFIELD TURNER

a "naval cordon" — concede that the problem exists.

"The admiral is not insensitive to the problem," said Herbert Hetu, a retired Navy captain who heads the agency's expanded eight-man public affairs staff, "and neither am I. It is frequently discussed.

"We have asked for constructive suggestions on what can be done," he said, "and to be frank we haven't got much."

As Hetu points out, it wouldn't be surprising if, after 30 years in the Navy, Turner didn't act and operate like a Navy man.

Even in civvies, Turner, 53, looks so much like an admiral that some employees at CIA headquarters in

Langley, Va., across the river from Washington instinctively salute when they see him in the corridors.

"If the admiral doesn't understand CIA culture," Hetu said, "it is fair to ask how much CIA understands Navy culture."

Much as the CIA veterans may dislike Turner, the agency's problems go far beyond one man.

The CIA has had five directors in five years, testimony to the turbulence of the times.

What the CIA veterans miss are the days when under civilian directors like Richard Helms or William E. Colby they could drop in for a chat on a first-name basis and go away with the answers.

Those days may be gone forever.

Turner spends much time away from Langley in his second office, in the Old Executive Office Building next to the White House.

TWICE A WEEK

He sees the President regularly twice a week, more often if something urgent comes up, and he is the first director to sit in on cabinet meetings.

All this is part of what one critic called a "naval buildup" to make Turner czar of the entire intelligence community, a reorganization move being steadfastly resisted by Defense Secretary Brown.